

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 02047

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS REGARDING GREECE
AND TURKEY

1. DURING THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS MAY 29,
HE REFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERALS WITH THE PRIME
MINISTERS OF GREECE AND TURKEY AND ANSWERED SEVERAL RELATED
QUESTIONS. TEXTS FOLLOW.

2. DURING THE SECRETARY'S OPENING STATEMENT ON THE BILATERALS:
QUOTE: LET ME JUST ADD ONE COMMENT ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS THAT
ARE TAKING PLACE WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM GREECE AND
TURKEY.

WE ARE NOT, AS WE HAVE REPEATEDLY POINTED OUT, ACTING
AS MEDIATOR. WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO IS, ONE, TO CONTRIBUTE
TO A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WOULD
BE EASED. WE ARE, THEREFORE, TALKING TO
THE PARTIES ABOUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES THAT COULD
BE FOLLOWED IN MOVING TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE
BETWEEN THEM BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUARREL BETWEEN
TWO ALLIES -- BOTH OF WHOM WE VALUE-- IS AGAINST THE
INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE, AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

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WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING

ON, NEITHER SIDE SHOULD TAKE ANY MILITARY ACTIONS OR MAKE ANY MILITARY THREAT OR TAKE ANY STEPS THAT COULD LEAD TO MILITARY ACTION, AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED THAT CONVICTION TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE GOING TO MEET TOMORROW, AND THE GREEK AND TURKISH PRIME MINISTERS ARE MEETING ON SATURDAY.

I WILL BE MEETING WITH THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER, MAYBE THE PRIME MINISTER, TOMORROW, AND I WILL ALSO MEET WITH THE SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIAL.

WE HOPE THAT THIS PROCESS WILL CONTRIBUTE NOT ONLY TO EASING THE TENSIONS, BUT TO GENERATING A FRAMEWORK IN WHICH A SOLUTION TO THEIR DISPUTE BECOMES EASIER AND IS ULTIMATELY ATTAINED, AND WITHIN THESE LIMITS WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED TO YOU, WE THOUGHT THE TALKS WENT WELL. UNQUOTE.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: QUOTE

Q - MR. SECRETARY, WHEN YOU OUTLINED THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, INCLUDING THE POINT THAT SPECIAL ARRANGMENTS COULD NOT BE MADE, DOES THAT MEAN THAT IF PORTUGAL BECOMES COMMUNIST DOMINATED, THERE IS NO WAY TO FIT IT INTO NATO? IS THAT WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: NO, I THINK THAT WHAT WE WERE SAYING, IN ELLIPTICAL DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE, IS THAT THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT VARIOUS MEMBER NATIONS HAVE ALREADY ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CANNOT BECOME THE NORMAL PATTERN IF THE ALLIANCE IS TO SURVIVE IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

Q - DO YOU MEAN GREECE PULLING OUT ON THE MILITARY SIDE AND TURKEY THREATENING AND THAT SORT OF THING?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: THE ANSWER IS WE MEAN THAT SORT OF THING. (LAUGHTER)

Q - MR. SECRETARY, DID THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER, ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE THE U.S. ACT AS A MEDIATOR OR TO INTERVENE AND LEAVE IT TO BOTH SIDES TO SETTLE THIS TYPE OF DISPUTE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: NO, THAT DID NOT HAPPEN. WE HAVE NEVER SAID THAT WE WERE ACTING AS MEDIATORS. UNCLASSIFIED

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WE DID NOT PUT OURSELVES FORWARD AS MEDIATORS, NOR DID THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER TELL US WHAT ROLE HE WANTED US TO PLAY, OR THAT HE DIDN'T WANT US TO PLAY ANY ROLE.

THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKISH LEADERS WERE IN THE FRAMEWORK THAT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN CHARTED IN MY TWO VISITS TO ANKARA, AND THERE WAS NO SUCH IMPLICATION.

IT IS, OF COURSE, CLEAR THAT THE BASIC NEGOTIATION WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH

COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS.

OUR ROLE IS TO FACILITATE, TO HELP, AS WE ARE REQUESTED, AND PERHAPS TO COME UP WITH AN OCCASIONAL IDEA.

Q - MR. SECRETARY, WHEN YOU, IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT FORMULATIONS, WARNED THE TURKS AND THE GREEKS AGAINST TAKING FORCEFUL ACTION, WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO MAKE THAT SUCH A STRONG POINT?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: IT WAS ONLY IN ONE FORMULATION. I TRIED TO SUM UP WHAT OUR GENERAL VIEW IS, AND OUR VIEW HPAPPENS TO BE THAT THE USE OF FORCE AND THE THREAT OF FORCE DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS BY EITHER SIDE WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AND THAT THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION SHOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY ROLE.

THERE IS NO SPECIFIC THREAT OF FORCE AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, BUT GIVEN THE POTENTIAL TENSENESS OF THE SITUATION, WE SIMPLY WANTED TO STATE OUR VIEW.

Q - MR. SECRETARY, EXCUSE ME. IF I COULD JUST FOLLOW UP. DID THE PRESIDENT MAKE THAT SAME CAUTIONARY REMARK?

SECRETARY KISSINGER : OF COURSE. I AM REPORTING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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